

# Duquesne Law Review

---

Volume 18 | Number 3

Article 2

---

1980

## Louis L. Manderino

John J. Sciallo

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dsc.duq.edu/dlr>

 Part of the [Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

John J. Sciallo, *Louis L. Manderino*, 18 Duq. L. Rev. 403 (1980).  
Available at: <https://dsc.duq.edu/dlr/vol18/iss3/2>

This Front Matter is brought to you for free and open access by Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Duquesne Law Review by an authorized editor of Duquesne Scholarship Collection.

# Duquesne Law Review

---

Volume 18, Number 3, Spring 1980

---

Louis L. Manderino

*John J. Sciullo\**

Few will have the greatness to bend history itself, but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all these acts will be written the history of this generation. Each time a man stands for an ideal . . . he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope.

Robert F. Kennedy

As much as we know that there is a season to every purpose and a time to everything, we can hardly bring ourselves to believe death has come to Louis L. Manderino. One has difficulty in attempting to pay honor to him, for his many faceted career touched so many institutions and so many individuals in so many different ways that each of us will recall a singular and different relationship to him. He was a lawyer, teacher, administrator, public servant, Supreme Court Justice, and friend.

My relationship with him began when he was Professor and later Dean of the Duquesne University Law School. I remember him as a superb teacher. Both in and out of the classroom, Lou Manderino was an inspired and inspiring teacher. He was a lawyer who loved to teach, to perform and to communicate the joy of practicing his profession to his students. To him, the law was not an organized body of substantive rules but a perspective on life and a vehicle for accomplishing each individual's own view of what was good and worthy. Anyone who had the privilege of attending his Torts class knows the sense of excitement and deep interest he conveyed in his subject matter. Skilled in the Socratic method, his teaching evoked spirited responses that made his classroom a fruitful and memorable experience for the students. At student gatherings or in the hallways, he was always at the center of a group of students. They adored him and the feeling was mutual. Many young people are lawyers today because of his deep personal interest

---

\*Professor, Duquesne University School of Law.

in their educational and personal lives. They brought their problems to him with the assurance that they would receive an attentive and compassionate hearing and the kindest and soundest of advice.

It would be easy to dwell on his accomplishments while he was at Duquesne. For instance, he instituted and administered the trial moot court program. He was instrumental in establishing a course on legal ethics. He was one of the first to actively recruit students. He created the faculty-student relations committee which permitted an exchange of views concerning the role of students in the law school. Though he distinguished himself as a teacher and administrator, the most admirable quality in his life was his sense of fairness. He believed that there are two sides to every controversy and that both sides should be heard with an open and impartial mind. He acted on the assumption that due process standards should apply to all areas of personal conflict. Persons who are involved in such a conflict have the right to know the facts and must be given the opportunity to be heard by the decisionmaker. They have the right to have their claim or problem decided in an objective and reasoned manner. Lou Manderino accomplished this because he operated openly and frankly with students, faculty, and alumni. He stimulated all of us with his sharp mind. He had the capacity to recognize what was relevant to an issue and to cut away irrelevant facts and opinions. He refused to accept verbal solutions which merely concealed the problem. As a teacher he had the ability to anticipate remote and collateral consequences without being fooled by words or catch-phrases. As Dean he was not above his faculty, but one of them, and he made of it a closely knit family, whose welfare and advancement he promoted in every possible way with sincere encouragement.

Louis L. Manderino had a sense of character built upon an understanding of people, a love of the law, and the requirement of basic honesty.

His true memorial is written in the lives and institutions he touched with excellence, character, counsel, and direction.

## Justice Louis L. Manderino

### *The Honorable Samuel J. Roberts\**

I am exceedingly grateful for the invitation to join in honoring in this special way the memory of a dear friend and greatly admired judicial colleague. Appropriate it is that the institution of legal learning Justice Manderino so loved and so devotedly served memorializes him. That the memorial be inscribed in the Law School's scholarly Law Review he so highly regarded and so genuinely respected is most fitting. Both the Law School and the Review pay honor where honor is due.

More than 2,500 years ago Jeremiah, a prophet of ancient Israel, delivered a message that embodies in essence the judicial philosophy of Justice Manderino:

Do justice and right; deliver the wronged from the hand of the oppressor; do not exploit or harm the stranger, the widow, or the orphan; and hold life sacred in this place.

Jeremiah 22.3-4a

The qualities proclaimed by Jeremiah have to a large degree characterized the professional life of Justice Manderino, a brilliant career but regrettably too brief. Justice Manderino was blessed with a profound sense of right and justice. He possessed the mind of a legal scholar and the heart of a compassionate and understanding adjudicator. Patient and meticulous concern for the rights of his fellow citizens marked his judicial service.

Albert Einstein once said: "Man is here for the sake of other men." Perhaps this is the statement of an idealist. If so, Lou Manderino lived this ideal. All he did for others, he did in the finest traditions of wisdom, understanding and humility. His public service was rendered without any barrier of race, creed or other improper considerations.

Surely, Justice Manderino was also a jurisprudential realist, fully aware of the world about him and sensitive indeed to the needs of the time. As Justice Cardozo admonished, "We are not to close our eyes as judges to what we must perceive as men." This commandment Justice Manderino especially observed; his dedication to that reality coupled with his scholarly mind and understanding heart developed him into a most effective adversary of injustice.

He was prepared to and did participate in every proper way to improve the efficiency of our court system as well as to advance the

---

\*Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania

quality of the judicial product. He was strongly committed to the belief that the administration of our court system, our procedural and substantive law, must be continually reviewed and adjusted where necessary to serve the needs of our society adequately. His scholarship took him very frequently to the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Rights of Article I of the Pennsylvania Constitution. Section 11 of that Article was indeed one of his favorite constitutional provisions. That section, which he would frequently recite verbatim, provides:

All courts shall be open; and every man for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person or reputation shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered without sale, denial or delay.

As a jurist Lou Manderino consistently refused to overlook, minimize or condone any injustice. He developed to a very high degree a special ability to detect injustice and unfair play. He was constantly and vigorously alert to any effort by litigants, advocates and others to bend or ignore the law, distort or misrepresent the facts or to in any other manner countenance injustice. No area of the law or piece of litigation before the Court failed to command his legal talents and his full responsible judicial attention. Lou Manderino fully sought to maintain judicial decisionmaking as an orderly, deliberative and reflective process designed to achieve the highest quality of fair and equal justice. He firmly believed that the proper functioning of our courts and the adversary system require of the judiciary sound and perceptive analysis of the issues and advocacy presented to the Court. At argument he sought to elicit from counsel the very best appellate advocacy.

Justice Manderino was quick indeed to recognize prejudged determinations which disregarded sound legal principles. He viewed such determinations with profound regret and regarded them as a misuse of decisional power and a distinct disservice to the fair and equal administration of justice. Of Justice Manderino, it may be truly said that he sought to give daily meaning to Aristotle's wisdom "there can be no greater injustice than to treat unequal things equally."

Justice Manderino possessed in rare degree the intelligence, scholarship, inquiring intellect, industry, sense of justice, sound judgment, and judicial temperament, which make for a truly good and humane jurist. He met Socrates' four classic qualifications of a judge: "to hear courteously; to answer wisely; to consider soberly; and to decide impartially."

Justice Manderino's colleagues in the law and his fellow citizens who came within the rays of his splendid public service and humanity earnestly express gratitude for his contributions. These contributions,

we know, are extensive, meaningful, highly impressive and, in a societal and jurisprudential sense, enduring.

Our finest and most lasting memorial to Justice Manderino is to follow his ideals of justice in our daily pursuits.

